

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1663

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 4, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1663 (1R).

This bill requires each county and municipal law enforcement department to develop and adopt a cultural diversity training course and each institution of higher education to develop and adopt a campus cultural diversity training course for campus police departments. The bill directs that the courses include instruction and exercises designed to promote positive interaction with the racial, ethnic, and religious communities within each department's respective jurisdiction. The bill also requires that the training courses promote positive interaction with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals residing within each department's respective jurisdiction. Each municipal, county, and campus law enforcement officer is required to participate in the course as part of in-service training.

The bill requires each county and municipal law enforcement department to develop and adopt a cultural diversity action plan, and each campus police department to develop and adopt a campus cultural diversity action plan. The bill specifies that the plans must include strategies for outreach programs that address the social and criminal concerns of the communities and campuses, as well as efforts taken on behalf of the department in forming partnerships with various cultural, religious, and civic organizations, including those formed on the basis of preventing discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. The plan is to emphasize positive relationships between the police and various community and campus groups that encourage a willingness to collaborate in identifying community and campus safety issues and establishing innovative strategies designed to create safe and stable neighborhoods and campuses.

The bill requires county and municipal departments, and institutions of higher education to submit the plans, along with the training course curricula, to the Attorney General within one year of the bill's effective date and at least once every three years thereafter. The bill allows the Attorney General to periodically assess the plans to determine whether each department is meeting its goals in providing a

cultural diversity education course and formulating a cultural diversity action plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the bill will result in indeterminate cost increases to the State, certain counties and certain municipalities.

The OLS cannot quantify the additional cost State, county and municipal governments will incur as a result of the bill. This is so because it is unknown how many State and county institutions of higher education and county and municipal law enforcement departments will need to develop or revise a current cultural diversity action or training plan to comply with the specific criteria in the bill. In addition, as the bill requires the departments to submit their adopted plans to the State Office of the Attorney General in a format to be determined by the office, the OLS does not know the format the office will adopt or the cost of complying with that format requirement for the institutions of higher education, county governments, and municipal governments.

It is unknown to what extent the bill will impose an additional cost on the State Office of the Attorney General. The bill authorizes the office to review the cultural diversity action and training plans submitted by county and municipal law enforcement agencies and institutions of higher education. It is unknown how often and under what circumstances the office will do so.